

Message Text

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70

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 SS-15 IO-13 L-03 PRS-01

SCI-06 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 NSC-10

AEC-11 ACDA-19 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 SCSE-00 SCA-01 RSR-01

/139 W

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P 190045Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6915

INFO AMCONSUL AUCKLAND PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SUVA PRIORITY

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 1880

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, NZ, FR

SUBJ: FRI

REF: WELLINGTON 1874 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO 1972 LOCAL PRESS REPORT UNEARTHED BY CONGEN AUCKLAND FRI IS A 105 FOOT DANISH BARQUE BUILT IN 1902 AND BOUGHT IN SEPTEMBER 1971 IN CALIFORNIA BY DAVID EDWARD MOODIE, A US CITIZEN FROM NH, AND HIS WIFE EMMA (NEE YOUNG). IT REACHED AUCKLAND IN APRIL 1972 AND MOODIE, WHO IS LISTED AS MASTER, AND WIFE SOUGHT TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR PERMANENT ENTRY VISAS TO BECOME NZ CITIZENS.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES FRI SAILED FROM AUCKLAND ABOUT THREE MONTHS AGO FOR MURUROA UNDER AUSPRICES PEACE UNCLASSIFIED

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MEDIA, A PRIVATE NZ ORGANIZATION HEADED BY BARRY NITCALFE,

WHICH OPPOSES FRENCH TESTS AND WANTED A PROTEST VESSEL ON THE SCENE.

3. NZ PRESS LISTS PASSENGERS AS THIRTEEN MEN AND THREE WOMEN (ONE PREGNANT) OF FRENCH, NZ AND US CITIZENSHIP. IT LISTS US CITIZENS AS DAVID AND EMMA MOODIE.

4. BARRY MITCALFE HAS JUST CALLED ME TO ASK COURTEOUSLY WHAT ACTION USG WAS TAKING AND WHAT ACTION GNZ WAS TAKING. I SAID I WAS GLAD TO TALK TO HIM PERSONALLY BUT COULD NOT COMMENT TO HIM AS A NZ CITIZEN WHAT ACTION USG OR GNZ WERE TAKING. IN REPLY TO FURTHER QUESTION I SAID USG WAS AWARE OF THE FACTS.

5. SINCE WRITING ABOUT I HAVE JUST RECEIVED FOL LETTER DATED APRIL 19 FROM SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

A. QUOTE: DEAR MR. WOOD,

B. AS YOU KNOW THERE ARE NEW ZEALAND CITIZENS ON BOARD THE AMERICAN REGISTERED YACHT "FRI" WHICH WAS TAKEN IN TOW YESTERDAY IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS IN THE VICINITY OF MURUROA BY THE FRENCH NAVY. NOTHING IS KNOWN OF THE PRESENT WHEREABOUTS OF THE VESSEL OR THE LOCATION TO WHICH IT IS BEING TOWED AND, SINCE THE FRENCH NAVY HAS TAKEN CONTROL OF THE "FRI'S" RADIO, THE CREW IS UNABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

C. THE GOVERNMENT REGARDS FRENCH ACTION IN TAKING CONTROL OF THE "FRI" IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS AS ILLEGAL AND IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE WELFARE OF THE NEW ZEALAND CITIZENS ON BOARD HER.

D. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD ENQUIRE URGENTLY WHETHER, IN VIEW OF THE "FRI'S" REGISTRATION, THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES INTEND TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN HER FATE AND THAT OF THE PEOPLE ON BOARD HER.

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E. THE NEW ZEALAND CITIZENS IN QUESTION ARE:

NAOMI PETERSEN
HUGH MUNRO
COLIN MARSHALL
RUA PAUL.

F. IT IS ALSO BELIEVE THAT ANOTHER NEW ZEALAND

CITIZEN, PETER MARTIN, HAS RECENTLY JOINED THE CREW
OF THE "FRI" AND IS AT PRESENT ON BOARD HER.

G. YOURS SINCERELY, FRANK CORNER, SECRETARY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS UNQUOTE.
WOOD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973WELLIN01880
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730724/aaaaarpu.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 WELLINGTON 1874 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Nov-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <05-Feb-2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRI
TAGS: PARM, PFOR, NZ, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005